

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-  
ESTABLISHMENT OF US-ALBA-  
NIAN RELATIONS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my warmest wishes to the people of Albania on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania. For more than 50 years, our countries were separated by more than just distance, and Albania lived in darkness. But, twenty years ago, the Albanian people threw off the yoke of repression and ushered in an era of democracy and freedom.

I believe that the renewal of ties between the United States and Albania flowed naturally following the end of the dictatorship. With the strong hand of President Woodrow Wilson and the United States early last century, the European powers were not able to divide Albania among its neighbors, and Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty were ensured.

Today, our relations are strong and Albania has taken its rightful place within Europe and on the international scene. It has joined NATO and has begun the process of moving toward the European Union (EU). As a member of NATO, Albania has sent members of its armed forces to fight along side US and other countries' troops in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. And, it is my fervent hope that through continued democratic progress, Albania will someday soon join the EU.

I have visited Albania many times since the early 1990s and have personally seen the immense progress the country has made. When I first walked the streets of Tirana, I was almost as likely to have seen a horse-drawn cart as a car driving down the streets and boulevards. Today, however, Albania's capital is a flourishing city and the country is full of life and has a European outlook.

So, again, on this twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Albania, I would like to offer my congratulations and my best wishes for the next twenty years of friendship and progress.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN MARGARET  
ELIGON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

Ms. Eligon was born in Grenada, West Indies, and immigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She graduated from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College, and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University.

Ms. Eligon is a Teacher, Educator, Special Education Itinerary Teacher, and a Resource Room Coordinator; she is licensed in General Education and Special Education. Ms. Eligon

taught Communication Arts, Math and Global History at Samuel J. Tilden High School. She retired in June 2009, after working in the public school system for 35 years.

Today, Ms. Eligon works with at risk children and has formed her own agency, known as the JME Agency. This agency was created to service children diagnosed with various disabilities, providing one-on-one support in daycare centers and in the home.

She has two children: a son, who is an elementary school teacher, and a daughter, who is a high school teacher. Besides her love for people, Jean loves reading, cooking, baking, and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,166,030,787,779.80.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,527,605,041,486.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING HENRY OGINSKY

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Hank is a dear friend, I have known for many, many years and I congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his life. A party will be held in his honor on March 27 in Corunna, Michigan.

Hank was born on March 1, 1931 in New Lothrop, Michigan. He graduated from Northeastern High School in Detroit and in 1950 he started working for Buick Motor Division of General Motors. He worked at Buick for 40 years. As a member of UAW Local 599, Hank was elected as a Committeeman, then Shop Committeeman, and as the Local's Financial Secretary. He served as Financial Secretary for 25 years. During this time he was also a member of the Executive Committee and continued serving when he became a retiree. Over the years he played a pivotal role in passage of the "30 and Out" retirement policy and obtaining dental benefits for the membership.

As a father of ten children, Hank also finds time to maintain two farms. He has his own farm in Lennon, Michigan and he operates his grandfather's farm in the New Lothrop area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. I

have always welcomed his insight, thoughtfulness, astute judgment and assistance over the years. I wish him the best in the coming year and many, many more.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA PIPER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Andrea Piper.

Andrea Piper was born and raised in Albany, New York. She was fortunate to attend private school from kindergarten through eighth grade. She then attended Albany High School, where she graduated at the top of her class. Ms. Piper had a strong educational and ethical philosophy during her childhood, a philosophy that still remains with her. This foundation, along with continued support from family and friends, allowed Ms. Piper to embrace her dream of becoming an educational leader. After high school, Ms. Piper received a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY College at Cortland. She later went on to pursue a Master's degree from Cambridge College and a certification in Education and Administration from the College of St. Rose CITE Program.

Ms. Piper has been an educator for seventeen years with the New York City Department of Education. She started as a middle school science teacher, in 1993, at Intermediate School 55, in Brownsville. In 1999, she moved on to teach for another seven years at ACORN Community High School, in Crown Heights; during this time, she was recognized by the UFT as a Teacher of the Year. While at ACORN Community High School, Ms. Piper served on several committees and started various after school clubs, including the ACHS Chorus and the Forensics Science Club. Her Principal recognized her effectiveness as a classroom teacher and assigned her as Lead Teacher of the Science Department; this prompted Andrea to pursue her administrative license. Very soon thereafter, Andrea was offered an Assistant Principal ("AP") position at ACORN Community High School, where she served as AP of Supervision, Guidance, Security and Organization. Her hard work and devotion to educating the lives of the children of ACORN Community High School led her to her current position: Principal of ACORN Community High School.

Affectionately known as "Piper," Ms. Piper has been recognized by colleagues for her hard work and contributions to the legacy of the schools she taught in. During her tenure as teacher and educational leader, Ms. Piper strived to help students become aware of their self-worth and limitless potential. She sets the bar high for both students and staff members; she understands what it takes to succeed.

Ms. Piper's hobbies are singing, crocheting, shopping and drawing. She loves spending time with her two daughters, Akili and Cheyenne. Ms. Piper owes her success and work ethic to her parents, Hilliard Sr. (deceased) and Anna Piper, as well as her great mentors. Through their love and dedication, as well as their commitment to entrench her in a guided and religious background, Ms. Piper maintains her strength and identity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Andrea Piper.